

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
John R. Squilla et al.

Group Art Unit: 2612

Examiner: N. Vu

PHOTOGRAPHIC SYSTEM FOR
ENABLING INTERACTIVE
COMMUNICATION BETWEEN A
CAMERA AND AN ATTRACTION
SITE

Rule 1.53(b) Continuation of USSN
08/977,383 Filed 24 November 1997

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-referenced application, without prejudice,
as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as set forth below:

1. (Once Amended) A camera that allows a user to
interactively communicate with an attraction site that stores content data related to
the site and communicates the content data to the camera, said camera
comprising:

means for capturing an image associated with the site;

means for receiving at least a portion of the content data from the
attraction site;

means for storing predetermined personality data that relates an
interest of the user to the portion of the content data; and

means for transferring the personality data to the attraction site
based on the portion of the content data received from the attraction site.

Please cancel claim 2.

Please amend claim 3 as set forth below:

3. (Once Amended) A camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein the camera further includes means for displaying the portion of the content data received from the attraction site.

Please amend claim 7 as set forth below:

7. (Once Amended) A camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein the portion of the content data received from the attraction site comprises detailed information related to the site.

Please amend claim 8 as set forth below:

8. (Once Amended) A camera as claimed in claim 1 wherein the portion of the content data received from the attraction site comprises summary descriptors representative of detailed information related to the site.

Please cancel claims 15-28.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-14 and 29 in the parent case were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blank (U.S. Patent No. 5,577,179) in view of Mayle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,018,774).

By this amendment, independent claim 1 has been changed to more clearly set forth the present invention. As amended, claim 1 particularly points out that the camera includes means for receiving at least a portion of the content data from the attraction site, and that the means for transferring the personality data to the attraction site is based on the portion of the content data received from the attraction site. Amended claim 1 is believed to be patentable over the art cited by the Examiner.

Blank does not disclose the camera set forth in amended claim 1. Specifically, Blank does not disclose or suggest a camera that allows a user to interactively communicate with an attraction site that stores content data related to the site and communicates the content data to the camera, including means for receiving at least a portion of the content data from the attraction site, and means for transferring personality data that relates an interest to the user to the attraction site based on the portion of the content data received from the attraction site, as set forth in amended claim 1.

Rather, Blank discloses a system and method for editing digital images in three dimensions. The system of Blank includes a computer connected to a video camera that can generate a signal representing an image. A person is positioned in front of the video camera, and the video camera generates a signal representing the person and the background that is behind the person. The image of the person is then separated from the background image and is combined with a different preselected background to form a composite image. The system of Blank does not teach the interactive communication between a camera and an attraction site as claimed in the present invention.

Although Blank does teach that a set of background scenes is displayed on the video monitor to attract the attention of a potential user of the system (Blank, col. 7 lines 34-48), this is very different from a camera receiving a portion of content data from an attraction site, storing predetermined personality data that relates an interest of the user to the portion of the content data, and transferring the personality data to the attraction site based on the portion of the content data received from the attraction site, as set forth in amended claim 1.

The Examiner acknowledges that Blank fails to disclose means for transferring the personality data to the attraction site, but relies on Mayle et al. for

the teaching of this feature. In contrast to the Examiner's assertion, Mayle et al. fail to satisfy the deficiencies found in Blank discussed above.

Mayle et al. teach a method and system for creating electronic postcards for distribution via an electronic network. Mayle et al. do not disclose a camera that enables a user to interactively communicate with an attraction site that stores content data related to the site and communicates the content data to the camera, including means for receiving at least a portion of the content data from the attraction site, and means for transferring personality data that relates an interest of the user to the portion of the content data, to the attraction site based on the portion of the content data received from the attraction site, as set forth in amended claim 1.

Furthermore, there is no motivation or suggestion to combine Blank with Mayle et al. to provide a camera which receives a portion of content data from an attraction site, stores predetermined personality data which relates a user's interest to the portion of the content data, and transfers the personality data to the attraction site based on the portion of the content data received from the attraction site. Such interactive communication between a camera and an attraction site is neither taught nor suggested in the cited references. Applicants fail to see how the two references can be combined to disclose or suggest the subject matter set forth in amended claim 1.

Independent claim 29 is directed to a method for allowing a user of a camera to interactively communicate with desired attractions, including the steps of storing content data related to an attraction site, storing predetermined personality data in the camera that relates a user's interest to at least a portion of the content data, and communicating the selected portion of the content data to the camera. The arguments above with respect to amended claim 1 apply to independent claim 29 as well. Accordingly, it is submitted that the invention of independent claims 1 and 29 distinguish over the prior art.

By this amendment, claim 2 has been cancelled, and claims 3, 7, and 8 have been changed to depend on amended claim 1. Claims 4-6 and 9-14 also depend of amended claim 1. Therefore, claims 3-14 are believed to be patentable over the prior art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to amended claim 1.

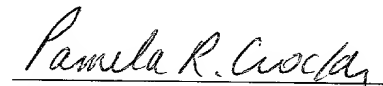
It is believed that these changes now make the claims clear and definite, and if there are any problems with these changes, Applicants' attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that none of the references, taken singly or in combination, disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this

application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,


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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

Claims 2 and 15-28 have been cancelled.

Claim 1 has been amended as set forth below:

1. (Once Amended) A camera that allows a user to interactively communicate with an attraction site that stores content data related to the site and communicates the content data to the camera, said camera comprising:

means for capturing an image associated with the site;

means for receiving at least a portion of the content data from the attraction site;

means for storing predetermined personality data that relates an interest of the user to [at least a] the portion of the content data; and

means for transferring the personality data to the attraction site based on the portion of the content data received from the attraction site.

Claim 3 has been amended as set forth below:

3. (Once Amended) A camera as claimed in claim [2] 1 wherein the camera further includes means for displaying the portion of the content data received from the attraction site.

Claim 7 has been amended as set forth below:

7. (Once Amended) A camera as claimed in claim [2] 1 wherein the portion of the content data received from the attraction site comprises detailed information related to the site.

Claim 8 has been amended as set forth below:

8. (Once Amended) A camera as claimed in claim [2] 1 wherein the portion of the content data received from the attraction site comprises summary descriptors representative of detailed information related to the site.